

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The cable ownership

cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

The US Supreme Court ruled in *Red Lion* that the rights of the listener supersede the rights of the speaker. Massive cable companies have more than adequate means of getting their voices heard. Cable monopolies place consumers in impossible no-win situations. As it stands now, we have no choice in getting programming. Lifting the horizontal integration rules will only make things worse. Please protect the individual for a change.